THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us

John 1: 14-18

If there was any doubt at all about whom John was speaking when he wrote, "In the beginning was the Word," it is made abundantly clear in the opening paragraph that this "Word" is, in every way, fully equal with God—in fact IS God. Likewise, if there was any doubt about the identity and deity of the Man, Jesus, it is made totally clear when John says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." God, the eternal Son, through the incarnation, becomes Jesus the Christ (Messiah) and lives among us in human flesh. But what was it like for God to become a man?

I. The Word Became Flesh

- A. How did God, the Holy Trinity, view the incarnation? How did He feel in that moment? What was the *kenosis* (Phil 2:7) like for Jesus? What was it like for the Father, waiting for Jesus to grow up, to begin to understand His identity?
- B. The immutable Son took on a new form: He *became* flesh
 - 1. This is a change for the Son, and it is permanent for all eternity
 - 2. He became the Second Man, fully human, without original sin, like Adam
 - 3. To be human is not equal to being a sinner; the race was human before it became sinful. Jesus was human and was never sinful, though He was every bit flesh and blood as we. He *became* sin for us also, He who knew no personal sin.
- C. What did Mary feel? What did Joseph think? What did shepherds see? What mystery baffled the angels?

II. And Pitched His Tent Right in Our Midst

- A. This is the pivotal point of all human history. In three short decades, give or take a few years, the course of history is changed: God is living with us as a Man named Jesus.
- B. John, the eyewitness, declares, "we beheld His glory, glory as of an only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
 - 1. Never was there such glory as this One, so full of surprises at every turn; never One so unpredictable, so right, so amazing.
 - 2. Never was there such a perfect blending of infinite and unmerited favor co-existing in unwavering truth, unadorned reality. Sinners exposed, their black hearts revealed by His very presence were drawn to Him, to the Light, to the Love, with yearning to be whole.

III. No One Has Seen God, The Only Begotten God (The Word) Has Explained Him

- A. The written word was only a part of the revelation and had no power to save
- B. Grace and Truth came through the Living Word, this One from the heart of God Who has perfectly explained Him.
- C. How do you see Jesus? Do you have a clear picture of the Father's heart? Take time this season, in a quiet place, to behold His glory . . .

the Word And became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace truth. and John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me." For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him

John 1: 14-18 NASB

We dare to say such things because of the confidence we have God in through Christ, and not because we are confident of our own powers. It is God who makes competent

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How do you relate to the humanity of Jesus? Do you minimize it and safely place Him out of reach so as not to disturb your comfort? Do you maximize it, making Him a good buddy, thus distancing His deity?
- 2. Imagine that you were either Mary or Joseph: what would it be like to hold God in your arms? Does He cry when He is hungry? Does He like to be rocked to sleep while you softly sing lullabies?
- 3. How do the three: law, grace, truth, find total harmony in the Person of Jesus Christ?
- 4. How old do you think Jesus was when He became aware that He was the eternal Son, God in human flesh? Support your answer with Scripture.
- 5. How has this message helped you to see Jesus more clearly? Or has it?

NOTES

administrators of the new agreement, and we deal not in the letter but in the Spirit. The letter of the Law leads to the death of the soul; the spirit of God alone can give life to the soul. The administration of the Law which was engraved in stone (and which led in fact to spiritual death) was so magnificent that the Israelites were unable to look unflinchinaly Moses' face, for it was alight with heavenly splendour. Now if the old administration held such heavenly, even though transitory, splendour, can we not see what a much more glorious thing is the new administration of the life? Spirit of Ιf administer a system which is to end condemning men was a splendid task, infinitely more splendid is it to administer a system which ends in making men good! And while it is true that the former temporary glory has been completely eclipsed by the latter, we do well to remember that is eclipsed simply because present permanent plan is such a very much more glorious thing than the old.

2 Corinthians 3: 4-11 PHILLIPS

